IN THE CLAIMS:

All of the pending claims 1-10 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original) or (currently amended). Please AMEND claims 1-7 in accordance with the following:

1.   (currently amended) A price information mediating process for providing selling price information of at least one product supplier to at least one user: said process comprising the steps of:

a) receiving product search conditions from said user;

b) retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

c) sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

d) receiving and maintaining a desired purchasing price presented by said user even after a current session is finished; and

e) selectively sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier when the desired purchasing price presented by said user matches a condition about the selling price presented by the product supplier, while selectively sending product information to said user when a new product satisfying the desired purchasing price is offered by an arbitrary product supplier.

2.   (currently amended) A price information mediating process for providing selling price information of at least one product supplier to at least one user: said process comprising the steps of:

a) receiving product search conditions from said user;

b) retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said storage means including normal selling price information and allowable discount selling price corresponding to said normal selling price which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

c) sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

d) receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user; and

e) comparing the desired purchasing price with the allowable discount selling price and selectively sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier if said desired purchase price is greater than said allowable discount selling price.

3.   (currently amended) A price information mediating process for providing selling price information of at least one product supplier to at least one user: said process comprising

the steps of:

   a) receiving product search conditions from said user;

   b) retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from first storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said first storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

   c) sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

   d) receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user;

   e) storing said desired purchasing price in second storage means;

   f) receiving a request for updating said normal selling price stored in said first storage means; and

   g) selectively reporting the updated selling price to said user in a case where said ~~normal~~ updated selling price takes a value less than said desired purchasing price stored in said second storage means ~~as a result of said update request~~.

   4.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to mediate price information between at least one user and at least one product supplier, said computer readable medium comprising:

   first program code means for receiving product search conditions from said user;

   second program code means for retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

   third program code means for sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

   fourth program code means for receiving and maintaining a desired purchasing price presented by said user even after a current session is finished; and

   fifth program code means for selectively sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier when the desired purchasing price presented by said user matches a condition about the selling price presented by the product supplier, while selectively sending product information to said user when a new product satisfying the desired purchasing price is offered by an arbitrary product supplier.

   5.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to mediate price information between at least one user and at least one product supplier, said computer readable medium comprising:

   first program code means for receiving product search conditions from said user;

   second program code means for retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product

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from storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said storage means including normal selling price information and allowable discount selling price corresponding to said normal selling price which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

third program code means for sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

fourth program code means for receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user; and

fifth program code means for comparing the desired purchasing price with the allowable discount selling price and selectively sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier if said desired purchase price is greater than said allowable discount selling price.

6.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to mediate price information between at least one user and at least one product supplier, said computer readable medium comprising:

first program code means for receiving product search conditions from said user;

second program code means for retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from first storage means in accordance with said product search condition from said user, said first storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product supplier;

third program code means for sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

fourth program code means for receiving a desired purchasing price presented by said user;

fifth program code means for storing said desired purchasing price in second storage means;

sixth program code means for receiving a request for updating said normal selling price stored in said first storage means; and

seventh program code means for selectively reporting the updated selling price to said user in a case where said ~~normal~~ updated selling price takes a value less than said desired purchasing price stored in said second storage means ~~as a result of said update request~~.

7.   (currently amended) A server for mediating price information between at least one product supplier and at least one user via a network, comprising:

first receiving means for receiving product search conditions from said user;

retrieving means for retrieving a normal selling price of a desired product from storage means in accordance part said product search condition from said user, said storage means including normal selling price information which have been pre-registered by said product

supplier;

first sending means for sending said retrieved normal selling price to said user;

second receiving means for receiving <u>and maintaining</u> a desired purchasing price presented by said user <u>even after a current session is finished</u>; and

second sending means for <u>selectively</u> sending said desired purchasing price to said product supplier <u>when the desired purchasing price presented by said user matches a condition about the selling price presented by the product supplier, while selectively sending product information to said user when a new product satisfying the desired purchasing price is offered by an arbitrary product supplier.</u>

8.   (original) The server as claimed in claim 7, wherein said storage means also stores allowable discount selling price corresponding to said normal selling price which have been pre-registered by said product supplier, said second sending means determines whether said desired purchasing price is greater than said allowable discount selling price and sends said desired purchasing price to said product supplier when said second sending means determines that said desired purchasing price is greater than said allowable discount selling price.

9.   (original) The server as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

third receiving means for receiving a request for updating said normal selling price stored in said storage means; and

reporting means for reporting to said user in case where said normal selling price takes a value less than said desired purchasing price stored in said storage means as a result of said update request.

10.   (original) The server as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

fourth receiving means for receiving selling permission reporting information from the shop terminal; and

third sending means for sending said selling permission reporting information to said user terminal.